

February 26, 2004

Akin Introduces Resolution Honoring Captain and Crew of U.S.S. Pueblo

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO) a member of the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday introduced a resolution to honor the late Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher and the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo. Both Captain and crew were captured and tortured for 11 months by North Korea in 1968.

"On January 28, 1968 the U.S.S. Pueblo, under the command of Commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher was attacked by four North Korean torpedo boats while in international waters. The attack resulted in the death of one Navy sailor and the capture of Cmdr. Bucher and his crew.

"Held in concrete cells, the Pueblo crew was starved and tortured for 11 month, with Cmdr. Bucher receiving the brunt of the cruelty. Fed mostly turnips, many of the malnourished crewmembers began to lose their sight. They were repeatedly beaten and burned on steam radiators.

"According to crewman James Kell, 'we were all beaten, we all were tortured. But Bucher had it double, triple quadruple what we got.

"In January 2004, Cmdr. Lloyd "Pete" Bucher passed away and was subsequently buried with honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma, San Diego, California. He died an American Hero.

"I am joined by fifteen bi-partisan colleagues to introduce this Resolution to honor Cmdr. Bucher and the U.S.S. Pueblo who served our country heroically. They sacrificed that each of us may enjoy the liberty for which so many others have given the ultimate sacrifice."